



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held June 26, 2007, the Board took the following action:

57-B

The following item was called up for consideration:

The Director of Children and Family Services' joint recommendation with the Chief Probation Officer to approve Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Capped Allocation Demonstration Project Implementation Plan, in accordance with the Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Capped Allocation Project (CADP) Five-Year County Plan, accepted by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) on May 18, 2007; approve and instruct the Chairman to sign Memorandum of Understanding with the CDSS for submission to CDSS; and approve interim ordinance authority for the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation to hire 27 positions to support expansion and/or implementation of the CADP strategies/initiatives, at a cost of \$2,022,000 for DCFS and \$93,000 for Probation for a total cost of \$2,115,000, financed using the funding available under the CADP.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

"Los Angeles County is on the brink of a sea change in the way we finance child welfare. Of 58 counties, we are one of only two in the State willing to take a chance and change the way we do business to keep more children from languishing in foster care.

"For decades, under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, the Federal government has provided a safety net for abused and neglected children. Regardless of how high the foster care caseloads climb, the Federal government guarantees funding for out-of-home placement, but provides little funding to keep children from falling into that safety net in the first place. Of the total Federal funds dedicated to child welfare, 87% is spent on foster care and adoption, while only 11% is spent on preventive and reunification services. As a result, on any given day there are over 500,000 children in foster care nationwide.

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“The Title IV-E Waiver frees us from these funding restrictions. After two years of negotiating, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), State and Federal governments worked out an agreement, creating a capped annual allocation in exchange for the flexibility to use those funds. The Federal government is, in effect, ‘waiving’ the rules, allowing us to invest in innovative programs that will improve outcomes for abused and neglected children.

“Over the past several weeks, the Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation have been finalizing the Title IV-E Waiver Implementation Plan. During the same time, on June 12, 2007, the Budget Conference Committee of the State Legislature approved a 5% foster care provider rate increase – a well-deserved increase for our foster families and group homes. Unfortunately, this legislation has a potential to negatively impact the waiver. The Director of Children and Family Services estimates that the annual cost for providing this increase is roughly \$12.7 million per year, comprised of a \$3.4 million State share, \$4.1 million Federal share, and \$ 5.2 million County share.

“Because the Board-approved Memorandum of Understanding with the State requires that they adjust the cap in the event of increased costs, the State share will be offset with an increase in State revenues. Costs to cover the Federal and County portion, however, would have to come out of the Title IV-E Waiver capped allocation. Ultimately, the impact would be to reduce the amount of funds available for reinvestment into family support services from \$12.5 million to \$4.2 million annually – decreasing the size of the Title IV-E Waiver program by two-thirds. Moreover, without the Title IV-E Waiver, the County would have no choice but to increase its County Net County Cost to pay for the 5% increase.

“Given the importance of this historic effort, we should strongly consider providing additional funds to pay for the 5% increase without unnecessarily compromising the Department of Children and Family Services’ proposal to reinvest funds in child welfare prevention and reunification services.”

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Patricia Ploehn, Director of Children and Family Services, and Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer, and Jonathan E. Fielding, Director of Public Health, responded to questions posed by the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion that the Board direct the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Children and Family Services to explore all options for allocating the \$5.2 million needed to fund the 5% foster care provider rate increase and report back in time for consideration during the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Supplemental Budget in September 2007.

Supervisor Antonovich made a suggestion that Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion be amended to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back every 30 days on the progress in strengthening the Title IV-E Waiver evaluation by planning, including data management and technology funding necessary to effectively measure the success of the Waiver and how to address the issue of the funding for the Public Health Nurses being used for mental health assessments of children in foster care. Supervisor Yaroslavsky accepted Supervisor Antonovich's amendment.

On motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board adopted the Director of Children and Family Services' joint recommendation with the Chief Probation Officer and Supervisor Yaroslavsky's aforementioned motion, as amended.

Later in the meeting, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the aforementioned motion was reconsidered to allow a member of the public to address the Board.

Bruce Saltzer, representing the Association of Community Human Service Agencies, addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Adopted the Director of Children and Family Services' attached recommendations;

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2. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Children and Family Services to explore all options for allocating the \$5.2 million needed to fund the 5% foster care provider rate increase and report back in time for consideration during the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Supplemental Budget in September 2007; and
3. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to report back every 30 days on the progress in strengthening the Title IV-E Waiver evaluation by planning, including data management and technology funding necessary to effectively measure the success of the Waiver and how to address the issue of the funding for the Public Health Nurses being used for mental health assessments of children in foster care.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Children and Family Services
Chief Probation Officer